

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks



5/11/84

Date

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United States
Office of
Personnel Management

Washington, D. C. 20415

In Reply, Please Refer to

Your Reference

MEMORANDUM TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

MAY - 8

Subject: Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Veterans'
Preference Act of 1944

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Veterans' Preference Act (VPA) on June 27, 1944, starting a tradition of job preference for veterans which continues today.

The VPA was a landmark in the national policy of veterans' preference in civil service employment. It has been strengthened since then by law, Executive Orders and regulations providing for preference for veterans and their spouses, surviving spouses and parents of certain veterans. The Act is but a partial recognition of the great debt of gratitude that the country owes to its veterans of service in the Armed Forces. The success of the VPA is evidenced by figures which show that 40 years after World War II, 30 years after Korea and 10 years after Vietnam, veterans comprise 39 percent of the non-Postal workforce and 52 percent of the Postal workforce.

This June the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will be celebrating Veterans' Preference Month with a number of activities. Our planned activities include the issuance of a Presidential proclamation, the issuance of a joint congressional resolution, a commemorative cancellation stamp ceremony by OPM and the U.S. Postal Service, receptions, veteran art exhibits, cooperative projects with veterans organizations, training sessions and public forums concerning the employment of disabled veterans. In addition, a Governmentwide poster has also been designed. A supply of these posters will be sent to you in May to help you publicize the commemoration.

I strongly encourage you to plan similar actions and conduct appropriate commemorative activities in behalf of veterans' employment in your agency. Your active interest and backing will help to make this program an outstanding success.

Additional information on the commemoration activities is available through our Office of Affirmative Employment Program, (202) 632-7082 or (202) 632-6800.

Donald J. Devine
Director

L-271

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